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# Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 SS-15 NSC-05 FRB-03
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6049

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DEPARTMENT PASS TREASURY FOR BERGSTEN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (BLUMENTHAL, W. MICHAEL)
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL TO BRUSSELS

REF: STATE 95716

AS REQUESTED BY REFTEL (PARA 4), THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF QUESTIONS WHICH MAY BE RAISED AT THE BELGIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON AND THE FOLLOWING PRESS CONFERENCE:

A. IF THE DOLLAR CONTINUES TO FALL IN EUROPE, WILL THE U.S. INCREASE ITS SUPPORT? IF SO, BY WHAT MEANS?

B. IS THE U.S. PREPARED TO WORK WITH OTHER COUNTRIES TO CREATE SOME SORT OF NEW WORLD MONETARY ORDER, TO REPLACE THE FLOATING RATE SYSTEM AS PRESENTLY PRACTICED?

C. WHAT ARE THE SECRETARY'S EXPECTATIONS ON U.S. ENERGY POLICY? IS THE ADMINISTRATION PREPARED TO TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION IF THE CONGRESS REMAINS STALEMATED? WHAT WOULD IT DO?

D. WHAT IS THE OUTLOOK FOR THE U.S. ECONOMY THIS YEAR AND
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NEXT? FOR A RISE IN OIL PRICES?

E. WHAT FURTHER ACTIONS IS THE U.S. PLANNING IF INFLATION WORSENS?

F. HOW DOES THE USG REGARD CURRENT EC ATTEMPTS TO PROMOTE

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GREATER ECONOMIC AND MONETARY COORDINATION? DOES THE U.S. BELIEVE THAT THE COMMUNITY IS TRYING TO GO OFF ON ITS OWN IN THIS AREA?

G. DON'T RECENT DEVELOPMENTS (E.G.U.S. CONTROLS ON STEEL IMPORTS) INDICATE THAT THE U.S. IS BECOMING MORE PROTECTIONIST--WHILE AT THE SAME TIME CONDUCTING A TRADE OFFENSIVE BY "TALKING DOWN" THE VALUE OF THE DOLLAR?

H. BELGIUM AND CERTAIN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES SUFFER FROM OUTMODED INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURES AND NEW COMPETITION FROM THE LDC'S. THIS CREATES PRESSURE FOR GREATER GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION AND PROTECTIONISM. HOW IS THE U.S. HANDLING THE PROBLEM?

I. U.S. INVESTMENT HAS BEEN SLACK IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES FOR SEVERAL YEARS WHILE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT IN THE U.S. IS INCREASING. IS THE USG ENCOURAGING THESE TRENDS?

J. WHAT WILL BE THE MAJOR SUBJECTS OF DISCUSSION AT THE JULY BONN ECONOMIC SUMMIT? OLSEN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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**Enclosure:** n/a
**Executive Order:** n/a
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**Review Markings:**
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20 Mar 2014
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